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Letter dated 31 March 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation regarding the adoption by the United Nations Security Council, on 28 March 2003, of resolution 1472 (2003) on the humanitarian situation in Iraq (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gennady **Gatilov**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 31 March 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation regarding the adoption by the United Nations Security Council of resolution 1472 (2003) on the humanitarian situation in Iraq

On 28 March the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 1472 (2003) on the humanitarian situation in Iraq. This technical decision of an interim nature, for a period of one and a half months, does not alter the essence of the humanitarian programme, which has now been operating for seven years on the basis of Security Council resolutions and the Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Secretary-General and the Government of Iraq. It merely involves some procedural specifications pertaining to the operation of the programme for the purpose of promptly solving humanitarian problems caused by the war.

The adoption of this resolution does not mean a legitimization of the military action by the members of the coalition, which in the resolution is explicitly referred to as the "Occupying Power". It is the members of the coalition which under international humanitarian law bear responsibility for solving humanitarian problems in the occupied territories.

Security Council resolution 1472 (2003) does not call into question the sovereignty of Iraq. It reaffirms the territorial integrity of the country and the right of the Iraqi people to determine their own future and dispose of their natural resources.

28 March 2003